

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Oct. 1, 2007

For More Information, Contact:
Loreeta Canton
Stacy Eberl
Office of Public Information
North Dakota Department of Health
Phone: 701.328.2372
E-mail: lcanton@nd.gov
sleberl@nd.gov

State Health Department Wins Four Awards for Excellence in Communication

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health received four awards for excellence in public health communication from the National Public Health Information Coalition, America's premier organization of public health communicators, during the organization's annual conference in Baltimore, Md., last week.

The Department of Health received a gold award for its news release "State Health Department Warns Parents and Educators About the Dangers of the 'Choking Game'" and a bronze award for its news release "North Dakota Department of Health Urges Everyone To Get a Flu Shot This Season." In addition, the department received silver awards for its employee newsletter, "Apple Core Gazette," and for its report *North Dakota's Cancer Control Plan: A Report for the Public*.

"Much of the work of the state health department involves getting important health messages to the public," said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. "It's great to see some of these efforts recognized at a national level. I'm very proud of the efforts of everyone involved."

The National Public Health Information Coalition was established in 1989 to promote an awareness of public health issues throughout the nation. Members include local, state and territorial health department communication specialists, as well as communication partners from federal health agencies, nonprofit organizations and professional-health services groups.

Nearly 300 entries in 18 categories were submitted by local, state and territorial health departments across the country. Judges for the awards included public affairs and public relations professionals from Virginia.

-- 30 --

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.